

Seasonal specialties

Two special opportunities are available here – one in summer, one in winter – thanks to the Sequoia Natural History Association. This important non-profit association offers winter lodging at the rustic Pear Lake Ski Hut as well as summer tours in beautiful Crystal Cave.



Pear Lake Ski Hut. ©NPS Photo

Crystal Cave's fantastic decorations lie beneath the beautiful surface of Sequoia Park. Over eons, water trickling underground formed this cavern and decorated its walls with intricate formations.

Since its discovery in 1918, some of the rarest cave formations in the world have been preserved there.

Crystal Cave is the only one of the over two hundred caves in these parks that can be toured. The cave is open late spring into fall, when daily tours are offered by the SNHA. Plan to return then to see it!

Pear Lake Ski Hut is obviously a winter destination! This chalet sits in a granite basin high above Lodgepole, at 9,200 feet elevation (2804m).

It is a strenuous six miles on skis or snowshoes to get there, but what a reward – glistening snowfields, rock walls shimmering with icicles, and a deep blue sky surround you. Weasels scamper through the snow in search of rodents that burrow beneath it.

Ten bunks and a wood-pellet stove keep visitors warm. It's a great opportunity to challenge yourself, meet other people, and experience the high Sierra in winter. (Check with the Sequoia Field Institute for seminars on winter travel).

Call 559-565-3759 for reservations.
www.sequoiahistory.org.



Marble drapery in Crystal Cave. ©NPS Photo

NATURALIST PROGRAMS

WALKS & TALKS A tradition here since 1931! Although winter is the parks' "slow" season, free ranger activities may be offered on some week-ends. Check bulletin boards for detailed schedules of evening programs, talks, or snowshoe walks. See *Nature Programs* on pages 8 & 9.

VISITOR CENTERS Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy and sells a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Your purchases help to support the parks!

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM People of all ages earn a patch while learning to protect resources. Those 5 to 8 years old earn the Jay Award. If you are 9 to 12 years old, work for a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn a Senior patch! To get started, purchase a Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions and have fun!

TEACHERS - BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS!

Rangers offer curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 6th-grade classes in spring & fall. Topics include geology & caves, sequoias, & Native Americans. Reserve a date for a fun, interactive program: 1-559-565-4303.



SEQUOIA FIELD INSTITUTE!

Enjoy your parks more than ever – try the Sequoia Field Institute! Choose from their wide variety of programs: indoor and outdoor seminars, nature hikes, backpacking, school trips, and environmental education. In winter learn cross-country skiing, spend a day exploring on snowshoes, or try winter camping!

Housed in the Beetle Rock Education Center in Giant Forest, the Institute also arranges special educational packages for your club, school, group, or extended family. Whether you are new to the parks or an old hand, there is something for you at the Field Institute.

The Institute offers low fees, and any profits go to support park education and science programs. Pick up a course catalog at any visitor center or contact the non-profit Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA), which operates the Institute: www.sequoiahistory.org or john_lockhart@sequoiahistory.org or 1-559-565-4251.

WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different types of areas - a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest (USFS). Some activities may be illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest. See page 2 to learn why this is so, and use a map to know where you are!

- **GO CAMPING** *In Parks:* Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. *In National Forest:* In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near road-sides. Pull safely off the road & no further.
- **GO FISHING** *In both areas:* Permitted during the season; a California fishing license is required for ages 16 & up. Get copies of park-specific regulations at any visitor center.
- **WALK A PET** *In Parks:* Not on trails but it's ok in developed areas (picnic areas, roads, campgrounds). *In National Forest:*

Leashed pets can go on trails. *In both areas:* Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave them in hot cars.

- **RIDE A BICYCLE** *In Parks:* Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail. *In National Forest:* Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. *In both areas:* Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People under 18 must wear a helmet.
- **FEED WILDLIFE** *Don't do it anywhere!* Animals become unnaturally dependent. Some can be dangerous; some can carry disease. Roadside beggars almost always get hit by cars.
- **COLLECT OR PICK THINGS** *Not in the Parks:* Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem. *In National Forest:* Gathering a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. *In both areas:* Archeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.

- **HAVE A CAMPFIRE** *In Parks:* Only in fire grills & some picnic areas. *In National Forest:* Get your required fire permit free at Grant Grove Visitor Center, Big Stump Entrance Station, or the USFS office in Dunlap on Highway 180.
- **GO PICNICKING** See picnic symbols on back-page map. *Bears active:* Never leave food unattended! Hospital Rock & Foothills are usually snow free. Big Stump (Grant Grove) & Big Meadows are plowed; others may be snow covered. Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. Fires not permitted at Lodgepole.
- **RIDE SNOWMOBILES** *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Only on designated snowmobile routes. Snowmobile trailheads are at Big Meadows, Quail Flat, & Cherry Gap.

- **DRIVE OFF-ROAD** *Not in either area. Stay on roads.*
- **CUT WOOD** *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Season ends 11/15. Call Hume Lake Ranger District for guidelines & permit: 1-559-338-2251.

• RIDE HORSEBACK

Rides by-the-hour; back-country spot trips and guides.

Cedar Grove - closed
1-559-565-3464 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season

Grant Grove - closed
1-559-335-9292 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season

Mineral King - closed
1-559-565-3106

Horse Corral (in National Forest/Monument) - closed
1-559-565-3404 summer
1-559-564-6429 off season
1-559-679-3573 cell